

glass may act as an absorbent of several inflammatory cytokines and thus act to shunt the overall inflammatory response. Evidence also suggests that the reactivity of the bioactive glass releases ions into the extracellular environment which increases the extracellular osmotic pressure. This may reduce epithelial cell swelling and thus help prevent necrosis in the area.

Turning now to the art rejection of record, claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bonfield et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,728,753) in view of Shimono et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,766,611). For all of the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Even if the references are combined as suggested in the Official Action, the combination fails to teach the use of bioactive glass in a method for treating inflammation. Neither Bonfield et al. nor Shimono et al. disclose or suggest that bioactive glass is at all useful in the treatment of inflammation. More specifically, there is no suggestion in either of these references of topical application to the site of the inflammatory skin disorder an inflammation treating amount of non-interlinked, particulate bioactive glass. Accordingly, the present invention is not obvious in view of the combination of references.

Also, there is no suggestion in either of the references that would have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to make the combination. Bonfield et al. is directed to the use of bioactive composite material in the repair of hard and soft tissue. Shimono et al. is concerned with a very different problem -- minimizing bacteria in cosmetics. There is no reason why one of ordinary skill in the art would make the combination.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the sole art rejection of record. Applicants believe they have responded to all matters raised in the above referenced Office Action and that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this Application or this Reply and Amendment, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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